

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3301
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
ARMY OFFICERS KILLED IN FIRE
Deora Shri Milind Murti

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether two Army Officers were killed in a fire that destroyed a forward post at Siala in the Saltoro Ridge-Siachen Glacier region in the second half of December, 2006 as reported in "The Times of India" dated December 25, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) apart from loss of the officers how much loss Army unit has suffered on account of fire and the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Major Sudhir Chikara and Captain Arun Shankar Regimental Medical Officer died in the fire accident on 23rd December 2006.
- (c) Yes Sir, a Court of Inquiry (COI) has been ordered.
- (d) Based on the findings of Court of Inquiry, it has been inferred that the cause of the fire was accidental and no one is to be blamed for the same.
- (e) The Court of Inquiry has assessed the loss to be approximately Rs.16.00 lakh (Rupees Sixteen Lakh only). For avoiding recurrence of such accidents, a detailed compendium to include aspects on prevention of outbreak of fire has been compiled and disseminated to lower formations for strict compliance.